



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Whittier Man Sentenced to Prison for Rape, Extortion

A 28-year-old man was sentenced today to 31 years in state prison for threatening teenage girls into having sex with him, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On June 28, Josh Manuel Magana pleaded no contest to five felony counts in case VA143991: two counts of forcible oral copulation and one count each of forcible rape, extortion and forcible rape – child victim over 14 years.

At today's sentencing, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Roger Ito also ordered the defendant to register as a lifetime sex offender.

Deputy District Attorney Michael DeRose of the Victim Impact Program, who prosecuted the case, said in October 2016 Magana pressured a 15-year-old girl into sending him nude photos of herself.

The defendant told the girl that if she refused, then he would hurt her and her family. The girl told her mother, who then notified law enforcement, the prosecutor said.

Authorities began an investigation into the case and discovered Magana also had threatened a 17-year-old girl, according to the prosecutor. The defendant told the teen that if she did not have sex with him, then he would release naked pictures to her friends, the prosecutor added.

Following several months of investigation, prosecutors filed a case against Magana on Feb. 8, 2017, and the defendant was taken into custody.

Due to media coverage of the case, a third victim came forward and revealed that the defendant also had been forcing her to have sex with him, according to the prosecutor.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

## **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.